

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th September 1892.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	"Ahmadí"	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	15th September 1892. 17th ditto.
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	.....
3	"Grámvási"	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga"	Calcutta	.....
5	"Kasipur Nivási"	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
6	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal"	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	.....
8	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.				
9	"Hitakari"	Tangail, Mymensingh	800	14th ditto.
Weekly.				
10	"Bangavási"	Calcutta	20,000	17th ditto.
11	"Banganivási"	Ditto	8,000	16th ditto.
12	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	Burdwan	335	13th ditto.
13	"Cháruvártá"	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	12th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	2,200	18th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	825	16th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	15th ditto.
17	"Hitavádi"	Calcutta	.....
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	17th ditto. 16th ditto.
19	"Navayuga"	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti"	Ditto	.....	17th ditto. 16th ditto.
21	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	609	
22	"Prithivi"	Calcutta	.....	14th ditto.
23	"Rangpur Dikprakásh"	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....
24	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	800-1,000	14th ditto.
25	"Sahayogi"	Barisál	342	
26	"Sakti"	Dacca	.....	18th ditto. 16th ditto.
27	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
28	"Samaya"	Calcutta	3,000	17th ditto.
29	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,000	
30	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	.....	17th ditto. 19th ditto.
31	"Sáraswat Patra"	Dacca	300	
32	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta	600	16th ditto.
33	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto	.....
34	"Sudhákár"	Ditto	3,100	16th, 17th, 19th, 21st, and 22nd Sep- tember 1892. 16th and 19th to 21st September 1892.
35	"Sulabh Samáchar"	Ditto	.....
Daily.				
36	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Calcutta	500	18th to 22nd September 1892. 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st and 22nd Sep- tember 1892.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto	.....
38	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká"	Ditto	1,000	16th, 17th and 19th to 22nd Septem- ber 1892.
39	"Samvád Prabhákár"	Ditto	1,500	
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	16th, 17th, and 19th to 21st Septem- ber 1892.
41	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
42	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	.....	19th September 1892.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchár Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	15th September 1892.
44	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Aryávarta"	Calcutta	750	
46	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	15th ditto.
47	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,200	15th ditto.
48	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desí Vyápári"	Calcutta	.....
50	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto	.....	19th ditto.
51	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	500	
52	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	4,500	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Al Punch"	Bankipore	.....	12th ditto.
54	"Anis"	Patna	.....
55	"Calcutta Punch"	Calcutta	.....
56	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto	340	16th ditto.
57	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	.....	19th ditto.
58	"Mehre Monawar"	Muzaffarpur	.....
59	"Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad"	Murshidabad	150	
60	"Setare Hind"	Arrah	.....
61	"Shokh"	Monghyr	.....
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
62	"Asha"	Cuttack	165	
63	"Echo"	Ditto	.....
64	"Pradíp"	Ditto	.....
65	"Samyabadi"	Ditto	.....
66	"Taraka and Subhavártá"	Ditto	.....
67	"Utkalprána"	Mayurbhunj	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
68	"Dipaka"	Cuttack	.....
69	"Samvad Váhika"	Balasore	200	18th August 1892.
70	"Uriya and Navasamvád"	Ditto	420	17th ditto.
71	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack	420	20th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
72	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	480	
73	"Silchar"	Silchar	500	5th September 1892.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
74	"Srihatta Mihir"	Sylhet	332	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sahachar*, of the 14th September, has the following:—

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 14th, 1892.

Government's Afghan policy.

The interests of humanity require that Amir Abdur Rahman should be driven from the throne of Afghanistan. But it must nevertheless be admitted that the policy which the Government of India is adopting towards Afghanistan is a very reprehensible one. Public opinion at the present moment seems to be that the officials at Simla want to take advantage of the embarrassments of the Amir to reduce him to the political status of Maharaja Pratap Singh of Cashmere. The Amir has been asked to withdraw his soldiers from Wana, on the pretext that the Wana Sardars who are fomenting trouble on the frontier of his territories are under British protection. Again, Lord Roberts has been appointed to head the Cabul Mission, and Lord Roberts is a soldier unfit for diplomatic work—and political missions headed by soldiers mean war. Lord Dalhousie sent a fiery naval officer, Commodore Lambert by name, to negotiate a treaty with the king of Burma. But after 24 hours of talk with the king, Lambert began to shell Rangoon. It was in this way that the second Burma war came about. The Afghans gnash their teeth at the very name of Lord Roberts; they still remember the lots of executions which he ordered at Cabul after the death of Cavagnari. If the object of Government is to pick a quarrel with the Amir, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is certainly the properest person to head the proposed mission.

Lord Lansdowne and his advisers have apparently forgotten that all the tribes, without exception, on the north-western frontier of India detest the English. It was a great mistake to establish English influence in Hunza, Chitral, and other places outside the Indian frontier. The distance between India and Russia is being annihilated by this means. By going out in advance the Simla clique is only helping the cause of Russia and courting a Russian invasion. Already the Russians are being regarded by the frontier tribes as friends and saviours. The Russians know how to mix with other people, whilst the English consider it true statesmanship to keep the people whom they conquer at a distance from themselves. The people of Central Asia are extremely prejudiced against the English. They say that English soldiers follow the footsteps of English traders. Every one sees that, when a war with Russia will break out, all the tribes inhabiting the regions on the west of the Indus and north of Cashmere will declare themselves in favour of Russia. It is only Lord Lansdowne and his military officers who think that the wild tribesmen are anxious to be ruled by the English. These men have absolutely no ground for thinking thus. The authorities would show great good sense by placing the frontier tribes under the rule of the Amir and holding him responsible for the maintenance of peace among them. It has therefore been a great mistake to stay the hand of the Amir. If the tribes had been under the Amir's rule, they would have been available in necessity. But the Simla clique is impatient of delay—"Happen what may in the future, we are concerned only with the present," seems to be the political motto of this clique. Crores of rupees—the heart's blood as it were of the poor Indian—are being freely squandered with no other result than courting danger. At such a juncture as this, it will be for the good of India if Lord Lansdowne resigns his office.

The Afghan question.

2. The *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, has the following on the Afghan policy of Government:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

Gul Muhammad is Amir Abdur Rahman's man, and if it is necessary to punish him, a hint to that effect should be given to the Amir. If, on receiving such a hint, the Amir call back Gul Muhammad, the whole difficulty will be at an end, and the necessity of marching an army into Afghanistan will disappear. If, on the other hand, Gul Muhammad disobeys the Amir's order, the duty of punishing him should fall on the Amir; and if the Amir finds himself unable to do so, and asks aid of the English, the latter would be right in interfering. But up to this date no intimation to that effect has been received from the Amir.

If the Waziris had been subjects of the Amir, they would not have complained of the conduct of Gul Muhammad to the English, and the very fact

that they have complained to the English of that man's conduct shows that they are enemies of the Amir. The question now is, would it be sound statesmanship on the part of the English to help the Amir's enemies in his present embarrassment? Moreover, if the Waziris are so favourably disposed towards the English as they profess to be, why do they lend themselves to the intrigues of Gul Muhammad and then, like spoilt children, tell the English that it is Gul Muhammad who is inciting them against the latter? And would it be sound statesmanship on the part of the English to punish anybody and everybody whom the Waziris may point to as their inciter?

The Amir does not believe that Gul Muhammad is trying to incite the Waziris and the Bitanis against the English, and it may be that the statements of the Waziris on this point are false. If there be truth in this, will the marching of an army into Afghanistan by the English, with the object of punishing Gul Muhammad, be pleasing to the Amir?

The Amir is the friend of the English who help him with money and arms. He is now in difficulty, and any action of his friends, which he does not find quite agreeable to him, will only increase his difficulty.

Government probably thinks that the policy which it now contemplates adopting towards the Amir is in accordance with its former policy of friendship towards him; but there is hardly any likelihood of the Amir taking it in that light.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

3. The *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, says that a large number of Hindus reside and carry on business as money-lenders in Afghanistan and in places near that country occupied by Russia. Before the time of Abdur Rahman these Hindus were held in great esteem, and were even given seats of honour in the Afghan Court. But Abdur Rahman has been cruelly persecuting and exacting large *nuzzars* from them since his accession to the Afghan throne. The Hindus in Russian Turkestan too, fare no better. If the persecution of these Hindu traders goes on for any length of time, these people will be obliged to leave their places of business, taking away with them all their wealth to the great detriment of trade. It is therefore a wonder that the Government of India has as yet taken no notice of these persecutions.

Was not Burma conquered and annexed to British India simply because English merchants in that country were persecuted by its rulers?

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

4. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has the following:—

The Chitral question. It can scarcely be believed that Nizam-ul-Mulk, eldest son of the late Mehtar of Chitral, though he has not been successful in seizing the throne immediately after his father's death, will let Afzal, his younger brother, reign in peace and security. And as soon as he picks a quarrel with Afzal, the English Government will have to come to the latter's rescue, if for no other reason, at least for the purpose of protecting its own interests on the frontier. And then it is almost certain that if Nizam-ul-Mulk fails to overthrow Afzal without difficulty, he will seek Russian help. Nor would it be the first time that the Nizam will have thus sought for help from Russia. He seems to have for a long time conceived a liking for Russia. Many people, for instance, think that he offered encouragement to Colonel Yanoff when the Colonel came near Yassin last year; and it is also believed that he was in the intrigue which General Grombchevsky carried on last year with the Hunzas. If, then, Nizam-ul-Mulk really seeks Russian aid, as he very probably will, this Chitral affair will involve the English Government in another serious quarrel on the North-Western frontier. But whether the Nizam seek the help of Russia or not, there can be no doubt that the English Government will have to go on straining every nerve to strengthen the Chitral State by rendering assistance, if not openly, at least secretly, to Afzal-ul-Mulk, or all its efforts for strengthening that State—extending over a number of years—will have been in vain, and its object in following this policy towards Chitral will have been frustrated. Russia is on a sharp look-out for some pretext for advancing towards India, and a pretext has cropped up. If under this pretext Russia takes possession of Yassin or Chitral, it will be a serious thing for India. Indeed, the difficulty about Chitral is causing the writer much anxiety.

II.— HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

Police complaints.

5. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has the following police complaints:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

(1) Murder is rife in the village Ganganagar in the Madaripur sub-division of the Faridpur district. A mysterious murder was committed on the 3rd September last in Tekerhat near the Pálang thána. Unless the authorities keep a sharp look out, such cases are likely to become pretty frequent.

(2) Owing to the negligence of the chaukidar of Ambarpur, within the jurisdiction of the Dumkul thána in the Murshidabad district, in the discharge of his duties, house-breaking and thefts have become very common crimes in the village. The residents, together with the panchayet, have submitted no less than three petitions to the District Magistrate, but with no effect.

(3) Great oppression is being committed in Hariskul, within the jurisdiction of the Nawabganj thána in the Dacca district, in the collection of the chaukidari tax. The tax was fixed at six annas on a poor woman who makes her livelihood by selling old clothes. She had been starving for two days, when the tahsildar came and seized two pieces of old clothes which were all the property she then owned.

6. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 18th September, says that the application which the people of the Manikganj sub-division submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, protesting against the increase of the chaukidar's salary to Rs. 5 by order of the Magistrate, has taken effect. His Honour has blamed the conduct of the Magistrate, and ordered the Sub-divisional Officer to fix the chaukidar's salary with reference to the condition of the villagers. His Honour is thanked by the writer for this act of kindness. But it is not only in the Manikganj sub-division that the chaukidar's pay has been increased by order of the Magistrate, people in all parts of the district of Dacca make the same complaint. But, unfortunately, they could not submit their applications on the subject to the Lieutenant-Governor when he was in Manikganj. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will set aside this unjust order of the Magistrate, and give panchayets liberty in assessing the chaukidari cess.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 18th, 1892.

7. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Court Sub-Inspector of Mymensingh is disliked by the local public. Supported by Mr. Phillips, he considers himself a very great personage. If the Inspector-General, or the Deputy Inspector-General of Police comes to Mymensingh now without giving previous notice, holds an enquiry into the conduct of the Sub-Inspector, and takes the evidence of zamindars and mukhtears, he may be able to ascertain the truth about the Sub-Inspector.

DACCA PRAKASH.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 14th September, has the following in connection with the dismissal of Babu Trailokyanath Mitra, late Subordinate Judge of Gaya:—

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 14th, 1892.

The dismissal of Babu Trailokyanath Mitra, Subordinate Judge of Gaya.

The dismissal is very much to be regretted. Considering the present attitude of the Sahibs towards the Bengalis, the latter ought to conduct themselves with the greatest caution. Speaking generally, Bengali officials are discharging their duties with honesty, and the dismissal of Babu Trailokyanath cannot be therefore regarded in the light of a national disgrace. As the English proverb has it, there are black sheep in every fold, and it is no wonder that there should be one worthless man among hundreds of able officers. Such men are found in all countries. The son-in-law of M. Grevy, the late President of the French Republic, sold titles for money, while Colonel Hope distinctly charged the high officials of the English Admiralty with bribery. According to the Colonel, some people used to present their officials every New Year's Day with beautifully bound pocket books, the leaves whereof consisted of English bank notes! Lord Salisbury's Government did not enquire into this charge. It cannot, nevertheless, be said that all English officials are corrupt. These solitary instances of corruption do not bring discredit on the national character. The country is nevertheless sorry and ashamed

to see one of its old, educated, and highly paid officials like Babu Trailokyanath guilty of such an offence. Apart from religion and morality, political considerations alone require that Bengalis should act with honesty. The duty of administering justice is a sacred one, and those entrusted with the duty are accountable to man and God alike. Trailokyanath Mitra has defiled the sacred seat of justice, and public interest required his expulsion from the service. The Lieutenant-Governor had in fact no other course open to him, and all right-minded people will approve of His Honour's action in the matter. Trailokya Babu should consider himself fortunate that he has not been criminally prosecuted. By not prosecuting him Government has shown him special favour.

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 14th, 1892.

Mr. Phillips again in Mymensingh.

9. The same paper has the following:—

Mr. Phillips has gone back to Mymensingh. It is no doubt the duty of Government to protect its officials, and not to transfer any one of them from a place simply because the people of that place have been making a howl against him. But there are exceptions to every rule, and it is wrong to keep an official in a place where he is thoroughly distrusted. Sir Charles Elliott probably thinks that Mr. Phillips will now mend himself; and the writer hopes that he will in future hear nothing but praise regarding Mr. Phillips.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

10. The *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, is at a loss to see why Mr. Phillips has been sent back to Mymensingh. Has Government done this to save him from discredit, or because it thinks fit to preserve the prestige of a Civilian, although he may have been guilty of hundreds of misdeeds? This act of Government will neither satisfy nor reassure the public.

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper is sorry that no pension has been granted to Babu Trailokyanath Mitra, the dismissed Subordinate Judge of Gaya. The writer doubts whether Trailokya Babu would have been dealt with in this way if he had been an English official. If an English official, a Commission would have been appointed to try him, and the Secretary of State would have given him a pension.

PRAKRITI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

12. The *Prakriti*, of the 17th September, says that now that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the appointment of an additional Judge in the Allahabad High Court, a Hindu pleader of the Allahabad Bar should be appointed to the post. The Allahabad High Court is the only High Court in British India which has no Hindu Judge. This anomaly should be removed this time.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892

13. Referring to a case of bribery among the Amla of the Additional Munsif's Court at Narail in the district of Jessore, which is being investigated by the Additional Munsif, the *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, says that if it be true that the District Judge means to transfer the whole civil ministerial staff of the sub-division in consequence of this case, then these poor officers will indeed fare very hard. Let the Judge punish as severely as he can those officers who are really implicated, but why should those who had nothing to do with the case, aye, with the Additional Munsif's Court itself, be put to the trouble and the hardship of selling off their houses,—which they had no alternative but to build at their own cost, houses not being available for hire at Narail,—and all their furniture and other effects, and going elsewhere for service? Will not this be grave injustice to those poor officers?

In connection with this case, the writer would draw attention to the corruption prevailing among the clerical staff of the subordinate law courts generally. The writer has heard that here and there an honest amla gets disgraced, and finds his position made too hot for him by his dishonest fellow employes. And now it appears that the dishonest amla have taken to the practice of forging records for the sake of illegal gratification. And there is no knowing what else will next take place in the law courts in consequence of Government's policy of extreme stinginess in expenditure. Educated young men swarm in Government offices as apprentices, and are made to do the full work of clerks, but are never paid a single pice by way of remuneration. They go on working gratis for three or four years, and then finding their prospects not a bit better than when they entered the office, they are compelled by want to make dishonest earnings. As for the paid clerks in the Mufassal Courts, it would be idle to expect them to be honest, considering how they are made to

drudge away from six in the morning to six and not unoften to a later hour in the evening, and this for the sorry pittance of twenty or twenty-two rupees a month. Again, the whole ministerial staff of a district being left at the mercy of the District Judge, who has little time to look personally to the welfare of these poor employés, it is the District Judge's Sheristadar or Head Clerk who has really their appointment and promotion in his gift; and it too often happens that this officer promotes or appoints his own favourites in supersession of the claims of better and more qualified men. It is the duty of Government to keep a sharp eye over these matters if it wants the ministerial staff of the law courts in the province to be above corruption.

14. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

The certificate procedure under
the Public Demands Recovery Act.

It is notorious that while Government takes every opportunity of condemning usury, as is evidenced by the manner in which it has censured the conduct of Bengali money-lenders in the Sonthal Parganas, and has often expelled them from that part of the country, it itself lends money to its poor subjects at exorbitant rates of interest. Thus in connection with the Dankuni drainage in the Hooghly district, which was completed years ago, the raiyats of that part are being still made to pay the costs of that work, and it seems that their liabilities on that account will never be discharged, although for every rupee of the original assessment they have had to pay in the shape of interest and costs twice the amount. This has proved the ruin of many raiyats. And this sort of oppression is practised wherever any irrigation or drainage channel is excavated by Government. The fact is, whenever Government itself becomes a money-lender, it exacts its dues most mercilessly; witness the administration of the khas mahals and the working of the Public Demands Recovery Act. For this result, however, it would be improper to blame the officials of Government, the revenue law being wholly responsible for it. It is not unoften that a private creditor is found to show some consideration to his debtor, but a debtor can expect no such favour at the hands of Government. Decrees are often passed and certificates made against wrong parties, summonses and warrants are often served in an improper manner, and distrains are often made in utter disregard of the circumstances of the defaulters. Delay in the execution of a decree or a certificate caused by wrong service of the notice or the absence or death of the proper party only serves to increase interest and the costs, which the revenue officers are under the law bound to recover, and which as a matter of fact they do recover from the defaulter or his heir. This is no exaggeration. Even the High Court has had to admit that the certificate procedure under the Public Demands Recovery Act is a fruitful source of oppression. Government, however, does not view these matters in the light in which they are viewed by the Hindus. That Government knowingly and deliberately commits such oppression should not be believed for a moment; what is probable is that it does not sufficiently realize Hindu feeling in such matters. It is only on this supposition that Government's action in passing the Consent Act and the Whipping Act in this country can be accounted for and becomes intelligible.

15. Referring to Mr. Phillips' return to Mymensingh, the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 19th September, asks—"What policy is this?" And adds that the people of Mymensingh are feeling very uneasy, and are considering them-

DACCA GAZETTE,
Sept. 19th, 1892.

Mr. Phillips' return to Mymen-
singh.

selves beset with danger on every side in consequence of Mr. Phillips' re-appearance among them. From one extremity of the town to the other there is nothing going on but agitation and whispering.

It is quite clear that a deep-rooted ill-feeling has grown up between Mr. Phillips and the people of Mymensingh. There is no use asking why? It is enough it is the fact. Would it then be in the interest of good Government to let Mr. Phillips continue any longer in that district? It is the duty of the Sovereign to please his subjects, that is to say, to remove every cause of their displeasure against the administration. And as there is no doubt whatever that the people of the Mymensingh district have been displeased with Mr. Phillips, is it not the duty of the authorities to remove the cause of their displeasure by removing Mr. Phillips from Mymensingh? If the policy Government is following in this case is followed in other cases as well, the people of

India will certainly begin to feel that the rulers do not care for their happiness and well-being and have no sympathy whatever with them; and for the people to entertain such a feeling will not be for the good of the administration. A conquered, subject and down-trodden people as the Indians are, it is not given them to understand the secrets of statesmanship; and that is why they ask—"What policy is this that the Government is following in Mymensingh?"

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 19th, 1892.

The present administration of
Criminal Justice in Bengal.

16. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th September, has the following:—

Too much of anything is bad. It having come to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor that certain hakims detained accused persons in *hajat* for an unnecessarily long time, His Honour issued an order to the effect that no Magistrate should detain any accused person in jail longer than was absolutely necessary. The *Hindoo Patriot* says that since the issue of this order no Magistrate waits to sift evidence, but convicts offhand all accused persons brought before him. A Magistrate is rebuked by Government if he is long in trying cases, and also if he does not convict. But surely the Magistrates are not so many incarnations of justice that they must be able to satisfy both these requirements; so the only people who fare worst are the accused persons, many of whom are now convicted without fair trial. The writer foresaw long ago that many of Sir Charles Elliott's orders would work mischief. A more reckless and hasty-going ruler never fell to the lot of Bengal before.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

17. The same paper considers it very curious that the *Hindoo Patriot*, whilst considering the publication by the Govern-

The *Hindoo Patriot* and the
dismissed Subordinate Judge of
Gaya.

ment of Bengal of all the papers relating to the
case of Babu Trailokyanath Mitra, Subordinate

Judge of Gaya, necessary to enable the public to form their own judgment in the matter, should express itself satisfied with the Lieutenant-Governor's decision in the case. If the public have not yet materials at their disposal to judge for themselves, how can they be satisfied with the Lieutenant-Governor's decision? Speaking for himself, the writer does not see why a distinction should be made between Babu Trailokyanath and Messrs. Crawford, Wilson, and Wheeler, who have been dismissed from the Government service for offences similar to that of Babu Trailokyanath. The latter did not certainly commit an offence of a graver nature than those for which the three European officers were dismissed. Why then should not a pension be granted to Babu Trailokyanath?

(d)—Education.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

18. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th September, says that the order of

Education in the district of
Bankura.

Government requiring the Bankura District Board
to reduce the number of pathsalas which are in
receipt of monthly aid and to give larger rewards

to the remaining pathsalas, is likely to have a prejudicial effect on primary education in the district. Under this order the pathsalas which will cease to get any aid from Government will cease to exist, while the hope of getting slightly increased rewards will not be sufficient to call into existence new pathsalas in their place. Again, under a rule newly passed, no reward will be given to boys sent up to the Upper Primary examination by pathsalas which do not receive monthly aid from Government. The object of this rule seems to be to reduce the number of pathsalas in which the standard of Upper Primary Examination is taught. Is the Upper Primary standard of education to be reckoned as high education? The district of Bankura has 50,437 villages, and there are pathsalas in less than 1,234 of these villages. That is to say, nearly three-fourths of the total number of villages do not possess any pathsalas at all. In consideration of this backward state of the district, its education grant ought to be increased. But instead of increasing the grant, the authorities are standing in the way of the District Board spending money freely in the cause of education. The country will not fare well so long as the members of District Boards and Municipalities do not learn to protest fearlessly against all unjust orders of Government. In the opinion of the writer, no village pathsala in the district can exist without a monthly aid from Government.

Mr. Griffiths as Registrar of the Calcutta University.

19. The *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, is at a loss to see what Mr. Griffiths' special qualifications are for the post of Registrar of the Calcutta University. Mr. Griffiths has no reputation for intelligence.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

The Superintendent of the Dacca Madrassa.

20. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 16th September, says that the teachers of the English Department of the Dacca Madrassa having asked the Superintendent of the institution, Maulavi Abdul Khan Muhammad Siddik, to construct a new room for the accommodation of the increasing number of students, the Superintendent replied that the Education Department's instruction was not to admit more students than the present building could accommodate. But one would be loath to believe that any such instruction has really been given to the Superintendent by the Educational authorities. Again, if there is not sufficient money at the disposal of the Trustees of the Mohsin Fund, why not devote a portion of the six thousand rupees granted by Nawab Ashanullah Khan Bahadur to the construction of a boarding house and a mosque in connection with the Madrassa? Money could also be raised for the purpose by subscription among the local gentry and nobility. It seems that the Superintendent's own apathy is the real obstacle in the way of the construction of a new room.

SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

The Superintendent also seems to be very negligent in the management of this Department of the Madrassa. The staff of teachers, for instance, is very inadequate. If a single teacher absents himself for a day, two classes have to be closed at once. The correspondent would also like to draw attention to the mismanagement of the boarding connected with the Madrassa.

The only reason that can be supposed or assigned for the Superintendent's general negligence is that the authorities have not yet given him such a salary as he would desire to have, though the salary he draws is larger than what is received by an ordinary Munsif or Deputy Magistrate. It is hoped that the authorities will soon see their way to increase his salary, or the correspondent fears the institution will in a short time sink into the position of the Rajshahi Madrassa.

The library as an educating agency.

21. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

We have repeatedly observed and we once more repeat the remark, that the non-Hindu Babu who now passes for a Hindu, and who is much like the donkey in the lion's skin, is a far more dangerous creature than either the Brahmo or the Christian. It is these Babus, these wily hypocrites, who are doing the greatest mischief. We do not intend in this place to refer to the speeches and the shameless and improper exhibitions which these men are constantly making at their meetings, conferences, and festive gatherings, but will only say a word or two about the libraries and clubs which they are setting up on all sides. These institutions are some of the most potent agencies for spoiling native youths. Not to speak of Calcutta, where a large number of such libraries and clubs have been established, almost every village in the country has come to have one or more libraries. There are villages where the ravages of malaria have reduced the inhabitants to the veriest skeletons, but which still make a fuss of what they call their library. There are many places where the sole occupation of the idle and do-nothing boys is to set up libraries. These boys are utterly devoid of modesty or self-respect, and, like the hungry cat, seem not to mind the constant rebuffs which they receive from the public. It is the books and newspapers which these boys collect by begging that go to form and maintain most of the libraries of which we are speaking. Many good boys soon get themselves spoilt by visiting these libraries. They read the books and newspapers, the worthless dramas and novels, placed there for their use, and by mixing with those that gather there, soon learn evil ways and the art of *daladali*, and become sprucer and more impertinent than they should be. The demoralising education commenced at school is thus completed in the library.

The monthly meetings held in connection with such a library do greater harm even than the library itself. These meetings are held in the English fashion, and are enlivened by speeches made in English. The number of good English speakers is extremely few, but however small their number, they all desire the subversion of Hindu society. And yet it is these speakers who must

be asked to address every meeting. The boys who attend the meetings are like so many deer before these wolves. The fact is, it has become really difficult to keep the boys out of reach of the many temptations which now assail them from every side.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

22. The same paper says that Sir Charles and Lady Elliott's kind and favourable attitude towards the students of Bengal is something unique in the history of this province. The public are well aware of the many proofs of this kindness which have been already given, and they should now expect a fresh proof of it. For it has been proposed to get up a representation of Shakespear's *Julius Cæsar* by the students and professors of the Presidency College, and Sir Charles and Lady Elliott have thought fit to interest themselves in this matter too. But it is difficult to say whether parents and guardians will very much like this idea of their boys taking to the stage. For there is no denying that many of them are horrified at the mere name of a theatre; and surely there is very good reason for it. Besides, there is little hope that the representation will be got through without a hitch, for that teacher of good morality, Bhai Protap Chandra of the New Dispensation, will not probably let the dresses of actors and actresses to pass unchallenged, seeing that the Dispensation's own theatrical performance, some years ago, was assailed with such criticisms.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 20th, 1892.

'What is the matter?'

23. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th September, has the following:—

What is the matter? The Lieutenant-Governor telegraphed to the Director of Public Instruction to come to Darjeeling, and Mr. Tawney has gone up accordingly. Mr. Skrine, Magistrate of Shahabad, and a man of some educational experience, has also gone on a sudden to Darjeeling. Is any new education policy in contemplation?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1892.

Local Self-Government.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 13th September, has the following:—

Local Self-Government has proved a failure in this country. When it was first introduced, there was much enthusiasm about it, and some people actually thought that they would soon have little parliaments of their own here, but the result has been very different. After much canvassing for votes, and a good deal of speech-making, some people obtained Municipal Commissionerships, but their election as Municipal Commissioners has resulted only in increased taxation. In the same way, when the District Boards were created, some people obtained seats thereon after undergoing a world of trouble. But as members of these Boards, they have been able to do no good to the country. Dressed like dolls, they come to the Board's meetings once in a fortnight or a month, and there their business ends. They have absolutely no voice in the Boards' deliberations. It was thought that the habit of attending meetings in a body would teach the people how to act jointly. But no, the Boards have only brought into prominence the inherent weakness of the Bengali race, and the members of those Boards are only found to indulge freely in petty jealousies and discords, thereby throwing into confusion the business of the Board. Both Municipalities and District Boards are ruled by a spirit of *daladali*, and this stands in the way of the success of Local Self-Government. The members of the Boards are supposed to possess much local knowledge and experience, but they do not seem to have utilised this knowledge and experience in any instance. When questioned on this point, they say that they have no hand in the matter. But if they have really no power, why do they take so much trouble to secure these memberships? Want of moral courage on the part of the members is one cause of the failure of Local Self-Government. The Bengalis, as a race, are very apt to imbibe the bad, to the exclusion of the good, traits in the character of other people. They have learnt from the English every kind of vice and trickery which the latter practise at the electioneering polls, but they have failed to imbibe any of the good traits in the English character. It is true Englishmen practise *daladali*, but they also know when and how to put *daladali* aside in order to act for a common object. Englishmen

are ready to forget their differences whenever it is necessary to do so for the good of the public, but the Bengáli cares only to maintain his own *zeed*, forgetting the interests of the public. Englishmen are always ready to recognise and borrow hints. Everybody knows how the Queen-Empress some years ago asked Lord Hartington to accept the office of Prime Minister, and how the noble Lord instead of accepting it asked Her Majesty to give the office to Mr. Gladstone. A Bengáli in a similar position would have tried to increase his own power by means of intrigues. The Bengáli's inordinate conceit prevents him from seeing any merit in his colleagues. He is always intriguing for supreme power. It is this sad trait in his character which makes the Bengáli unfit for Self-Government.

The coming election in the Burdwan Local Board.

25. The same paper has the following on the approaching election of members of the Burdwan Local Board:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Sept. 13th, 1892.

The voters' lists which were prepared on the occasion of the two previous elections were not correct and reliable, nor is the new list which has been prepared in view of the approaching election better. The list is prepared by the police officers, and is necessarily imperfect. The darogas attached to the thánas collect their information relative to the matter from the chaukidars, who come to visit them on business, and the list is based on information thus collected. If it is necessary to have a correct voters' list, the agency of educated and respectable villagers should be employed for the purpose. An educated and respectable inhabitant of a village should be asked to prepare the list of voters for his own village. A list prepared in this way is likely to be free from errors.

As people do not get timely information of the elections, a sufficient number of voters do not attend at the polls. To prevent this, printed notices of the approaching election should be sent to the villages concerned a few days before the day fixed for it.

Filtered water within the Hooghly Municipality.

26. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

At a meeting recently held at Hooghly under the auspices of the local Rate-payers' Association, it was resolved to memorialise the Lieutenant-Governor, representing to His Honour that being situated on the bank of the Hooghly river, the town of Hooghly does not suffer from scarcity of water, and that the people there are not in a condition to pay for filtered water. There were, however, many people present at the meeting who expressed themselves in favour of a supply of filtered water. The fact is, the people all like to have filtered water, but are only afraid of the tax which they may have to pay in case such water is supplied to them. Again, it is not true that there is no scarcity of water in Hooghly and Chinsurah. There are *chars* in front of many places within the jurisdiction of the Hooghly Municipality, and in the cold weather, when the river water becomes pure, it has to be brought from a distance over the *chars*. And in the rainy season, when the *chars* are submerged and the river comes nearer to the people, the water becomes very turbid, and its use causes dyspepsia, dysentery, and other diseases. Again, all respectable families within the Municipality have even now to pay for their supply of drinking water, and it is not likely that they will have to pay more in the shape of a tax, if filtered water is supplied to them. And even if they have to pay more, they will not surely grudge the cost. The lighting arrangements of the municipality are very imperfect, and the people will certainly prefer having filtered water to travelling at night in semi-darkness. So the municipality may save the cost of lighting the streets, and apply the saving to a supply of filtered water.

27. The *Prakriti*, of the 17th September, publishes a correspondent's letter dealing with the affairs of the Naihati Municipality. According to the correspondent, the affairs of that municipality were far better administered by its two former Chairmen, Babu Chandra Sekhar Gupta and Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri, than they are by its present Chairman, Babu Mahendra Nath Mitra. Babu Chandra Sekhar Gupta used to do everything himself, but as he was an old man, the rate-payers thought that their business was not being done as it required to be by him, and they were not therefore sufficiently thankful to him. Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri came after Chandra Babu. He was a very kind-hearted man,

The Naihati Municipality and the Belvedere Conference.

PRAKRITI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

but as he sought to please everybody, he succeeded in pleasing nobody, and wicked people called him a high-handed officer. Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri was succeeded two years ago by the present Chairman, Mahendra Babu, a pleader of the Hooghly Bar. During the two years that Mahendra Babu has been in office, he has not brought forward a single measure calculated to do good to the rate-payers. His Chairmanship is marked by litigation and increased taxation. The rate-payers are in fact groaning under the taxation. A man whose income is only Rs. 15 per month has been assessed to the tax on the assumption that his income is Rs. 75 per month! In some cases the taxes have been trebled and quadrupled. Not only no new roads have been constructed but old ones have been allowed to fall into disrepair. The Chairman leaves much of his own work to be done by the Vice-Chairman, who is disliked by most people, and is nicknamed "the municipality's vice." This account of the affairs of the Naihati Municipality shows how prone the heads of mufassal municipalities are to increase taxation. And one should easily judge from this how matters municipal, must fare when the new Municipal law, forcing the hands of municipalities in the matter of the assessment of taxes, will be passed. Reference is then made to the Belvedere Conference, and the following remarks are made:—If Government really wants to do good to the people, it ought to require villagers to give expression to their views by holding public meetings. The writer's views on the subject are the same as those which have been expressed by Raja Peary Mohan before the Conference. The Raja deserves to be thanked for not having forgotten the people under the charm of the honied words spoken to him by the Lieutenant-Governor.

PRAKRITI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

28. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

Filtered water in the Hooghly-
Chinsura Municipality.

The people of Hooghly and Chinsura do not stand in need of filtered water. It is true they occasionally suffer from scarcity of water, but that inconvenience will not be removed by the laying of pipes for the conveyance of filtered water. Most of the people living there are very poor, and will not be able to take water-pipes into their houses, and so even if pipes for filtered water are laid there, most men will have to get water from long distances. Moreover, there are a large number of men in the municipality of Hooghly and Chinsura who are unable to pay the municipal rates, and every year some 1,000 to 1,500 rupees of the rates remain unrealized. The Chairman of the municipality knows all this, and yet he has supported the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal regarding the supply of filtered water. The drainage of the municipality is in a most deplorable condition, and ought to be improved.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

29. The *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, contains an article on the

Mr. Phillips and the Nasirabad
Municipality in the Mymensingh
district.

Nasirabad Municipality, in which regret is expressed that at the last meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held for the purpose of electing a Chairman the head-master of the local school proposed the District Magistrate, Mr. Phillips, for the Chairmanship, and that he went out of his way to vilify the late Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The whole article is full of insinuations and hints that Mr. Phillips was really desirous of being elected Chairman, though he stated that he was not willing to accept that office, and that Mahendra Babu, a Deputy Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner, has been transferred to Dinajpur, simply because as President of the municipal meeting for the election of a Chairman he gave it as his opinion that the Commissioners should elect a non-official Chairman.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 20th, 1892.

The post of Health Officer of
Calcutta.

30. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th September, has the following:—

Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality, has gone home on leave, and Dr. O'Brien is officiating for him on Rs. 600 per month. Dr. O'Brien is not a whole-time officer and has other duties to attend to. The sanitation of the town is not likely to suffer under this arrangement. Before Dr. Simpson's appointment, the pay of the post of Health Officer was Rs. 500 per month, and the person filling it did the duties of his post in addition to other duties. The health of the town, however, did not suffer under that arrangement, nor has it improved to any appreciable extent now that a whole-time officer has been appointed as Health Officer. When men like Dr. McLeod and Dr. O'Brien can be had for Rs. 500 a month, it is useless

to spend 700 rupees more for the sanitation of the town. The excess, Rs. 700, would be far better spent in engaging 200 more mehters and sweepers. Dr. O'Brien is doing the duties of Health Officer on Rs. 600 a month, and the arrangement is certainly worth giving a trial; for, if successful, it may in future lead to the restoration of the old pay of the post, namely Rs. 500 a month. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, does not like the arrangement. He wants to see a man without any professional practice, like Dr. Simpson, appointed to officiate for him, and has written to the Commissioners to that effect. If the Commissioners can shew independence in this matter, and satisfy His Honour of the propriety of the present arrangement, there will be likelihood of the old arrangement coming back in course of time. The Health Officer having an able native assistant and lots of officers under him, the appointment of Dr. O'Brien is not likely to be prejudicial to the sanitary interests of the town. The Lieutenant-Governor ought not to interfere with the arrangement made by the Commissioners. To say that His Honour is about to do so with the object of preventing the restoration of the old pay of the post, would be to ascribe motives to him.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

An irrigation complaint from Burdwan.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 13th September, has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1892.

The Eden Canal was excavated for the purpose of supplying drinking water, and for a time the authorities refused to allow its water to be used for agricultural purposes. But they have since made so much profit by selling its water to agriculturists that they have included even the river Banka within the canal, and they contemplate levying a water-rate on people using the water of the river for agricultural purposes. Now the Banka is an old river, and people living on its banks have always enjoyed the right of using its water for agricultural purposes. They used to construct dams across the river, and by that means made its waters flow over their fields. To deprive them of this right will be therefore most unjust. The river does not of itself overflow the fields, but it is made to do so at a considerable expenditure of money and labour. The people themselves supply this labour and expense, and yet they will have to pay a tax for so doing. The case is different as regards the Eden Canal. For Government has excavated it, and maintains it at a considerable expenditure of money, and it is therefore justified in taxing those who take its water for agricultural purposes. But there is no such justification for a water-rate in respect of the Banka river. And if a water-rate in respect of the Banka river is justified on the ground that the canal water passes through the Banka river, and the Banka water passes through the canal, the argument should make the people living on the bank of the river Damodar liable to the payment of a water-rate, for the Eden Canal takes its water from that river. The Magistrate of Burdwan is asked to take the case of the raiyats into his favourable consideration.

32. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, is not at all surprised that the employes on the Tirhut State Railway will henceforward have to enter into written contracts of slavery, for which forms have been issued.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

The employes on the Tirhut State Railway.

It is something like the extremely painful necessity which compels men to throw their own children into the fire and then eat of their flesh that drives men to accept slavery. There can therefore be no objection to such written contracts of slavery, and those who are clamouring against the order are not surely acting wisely.

33. The *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, says that it is true that no cases of outrage on female railway passengers have come to the knowledge of the public since those which occurred at Howrah and Assensole last

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

Railway travelling by female passengers.

year, but it should not therefore be thought that no such cases have really taken place. For, in this country, such cases may take place and yet remain unpublished. A case of this kind lately occurred at the Saidpur station of the Northern Bengal State Railway. A Bengali doctor, in the employ of the railway, was found in a ladies' compartment, with a female passenger

in it. On noticing this, the guard in charge of the train at once made over the doctor to the custody of the station-master, and the case is being investigated by the chief doctor of the station. Thus the compartments specially reserved for ladies seem to be becoming more dangerous to female passengers than compartments not so reserved; whilst female passengers cannot well be taken into the male compartments, where they are exposed to shameless and indecent exhibitions by the so-called civilised gentlemen of these days. There was a time when every one worthy of the name of a gentleman used to avoid a compartment in which a lady was travelling, but now-a-days any one having the least pretension to education is impatient to get into a carriage in which a lady is found seated, and being in the carriage remains staring at her like a barbarous boor in the most provoking manner possible. Progress in education is expected to make men more and more civil and polite, but in this country it has produced the opposite effect. It has therefore become absolutely necessary, to adopt measures which will make Railway travelling by females perfectly safe.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

34. The same paper says that last year not more than an eight-anna crop was obtained in most parts of the Hooghly and Burdwan districts. Irrigation in the Hooghly and Burdwan districts, and this year, though the sowing process has been gone through with partial success in certain parts of these districts, there has been no transplantation at all for want of rain. Large tracts of country on both sides of the Tarakeswar Railway have suffered immensely from drought. It is true, some villages obtained a meagre supply of water from the Eden Canal for watering the fields, but the neglect of the Canal authorities in supplying other villages with an adequate quantity of water has blighted every prospect of even the poor *aman* crop that could be expected this year. Several petitions have been submitted to the District Magistrate of Hooghly, but with no effect. A fuller supply of water to the villages referred to above, made even now by the authorities, may save something of the paddy, jute and potato crops there; but without it there will surely be famine and severe water scarcity in these two districts.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

35. The *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, has the following in connection with the Hurdwar affair.

It is the duty of the English rulers of India to see that the Maharani's Indian subjects are not oppressed by anybody. Whenever, therefore, they hear of any such oppression, they ought to enquire into the matter; and they are certainly disloyal officials who, instead of enquiring into a case of oppression, try to stop enquiry and taunt and abuse those who would help to bring about one. An official of Government is said to have expressed himself in the following way in connection with the enquiry which is now going on at Hurdwar:—Has the representative of the British Indian Association subverted British rule, and have the *pandas* become rulers? The consequence of all this will be deplorable. The oppression committed on the pilgrims has deeply wounded Hindu feeling. If then this oppression is proved, and if Government thereafter takes steps to prevent similar oppression in future, the people's love for British rule will surely become deeper. The object of Government in dispersing the *melâ* was to save the pilgrims from the ravages of cholera. But its order was carried out by its officers, both Hindu and Mussulman, in such a manner that there was great oppression of the pilgrims which the responsible officers of Government looked on with placid indifference.

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

36. The *Banganivasi*, of the 16th September, says that the accounts of oppression which have been heard from the witnesses who have been examined before the Hurdwar Commission of Enquiry have thrown into the shade the stories of oppression that were heard before the enquiry. It has been proved by the evidence given before the Commission that even death resulted from the beating which the Police administered to the pilgrims. But graver charges even than this have been brought against the officers who were entrusted with the breaking up of the fair. For it is said that they desecrated the *sradh* ceremonies of the pilgrims, by kicking at their articles of worship, and also by making water

thereon. Stories of such oppression were never heard before. If the Hindus had not been the quiet people they are, a serious disturbance would have occurred at Hurdwar on the occasion of the breaking up of the fair. The Hindus can silently submit to every oppression with the sole exception of interference with their religion. And yet the Hindu pilgrims at Hurdwar uttered not a word in regard to the desecration that was committed on their religion. If the British Indian Association had not interested itself in the matter, the public would never have known the horrible oppressions that were committed. But for this very reason the Association and its representative at Hurdwar have incurred the displeasure of the authorities. The manner in which the Commission is conducting itself has really surprised everybody. It should be the duty of the Commission to investigate the matter thoroughly with a view of enabling Government to know what really occurred, and thereafter to put a check upon such oppression in future, and not to frown upon the witnesses when they speak of oppression, or to bully them into confusion or contradiction. But one of the Magistrates sitting on the Commission, exasperated by evidence given by the witnesses, angrily asked if the Hurdwar people really thought that British domination in India was at an end, and that the British Indian Association with its representative at Hurdwar or the Pandas at Hurdwar were supreme in the land. This Magistrate also expressed the suspicion that the witnesses must have been instigated by some one behind the scene, or, ignorant and illiterate as they were, they would not have dared to give such evidence. But ought not the Commission to have been grateful to the British Indian Association and its representative for the assistance they are rendering to Government in this matter of the enquiry, instead of using sarcastic language towards them? The attitude of the Commission indicates plainly enough how the enquiry will be likely to end, if the Government of India implicitly accepts its report.

37. The same paper complains that letters, &c., are not regularly delivered in Vaikhali village within the jurisdiction of the Asasuni Post Office in the Khulna district. Value-payables are sometimes kept undelivered for a fortnight.

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

38. The *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, says that according to the *Civil and Military Gazette*, the troops which have been sent from Cashmere to Gilgit were subjected to great hardship on the way. The soldiers were allowed to take their meal at Jammu, and after that they had to travel for thirty-six hours without a single morsel of food. On their way from Rawalpindi to Murree many of them were attacked with cholera, but still rest was not allowed to them. The writer fails to see the necessity of hurrying troops to Gilgit in this cruel fashion, when there was no imminent danger to meet. It is hoped Government will enquire under whose orders the troops were thus cruelly treated. Rajas and Maharajas, too, who place their troops at the disposal of the Government of India, ought to see that their troops are not prevented from enjoying health and comfort.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

39. The *Grāmvasī*, of the 17th September, says that the work of the registry office at Howrah has increased so much that one officer cannot manage it. A sub-registry office at Jomjur will benefit both Government and the public.

GRAMVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

40. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 18th September, extremely regrets that the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed no opinion in the matter of the supply of pure water to the villages on the bank of the Kantapati river referred to in the application which was submitted to His Honour by the people of the Manikganj Sub-division. As the want of a supply of pure water is depopulating these villages, His Honour will, it is hoped, soon give his attention to the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 18th, 1892.

41. The *Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 21st September, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 21st, 1892.

It is said the reason why the Lieutenant-Governor reprimanded Mr. Windsor, Joint-Magistrate of Serampore, in connection with a certain well-known case in which there was failure of justice, is that the matter was not agitated in the press, and that the reason why His Honour has taken no notice

of the conduct of Mr. Phillips in the Surjya Kanta case, is that that case has been so much agitated in the press. If this be a correct statement, then it is clear that there is a feeling of hostility between the Bengal Government and the Native Press, and that Sir Charles Elliott still entertains strong ill-feeling towards that press. But it is also noticeable that Mr. Risley is trying to bring about a friendly feeling between Government and the Native Press. The writer can scarcely bring himself to believe that Sir Charles Elliott's Government means to blow hot and cold in the same breath.

III —LEGISLATIVE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1892.

42. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 13th September, has the following in connection with the amended Municipal Bill:—

Agricultural lands in the new
Municipal Bill.

Under the existing law the term 'holding' includes agricultural lands within the limits of Municipalities, and the Commissioners of the Burdwan Municipality have accordingly made up their mind to tax such lands. But the raiyats in possession of the lands already pay rent for the lands to the zamindars, and to require them to pay rates to the Municipality for the same lands would be to subject them to great hardship. The condition of the agricultural population all over the country has become so deplorable that the pecuniary liabilities of that population ought on no account to be increased. It is, therefore, very desirable to have a provision in the new law exempting agricultural lands from municipal taxation.

PRATIKAR,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

43. Referring to the questions addressed to the public by Mr. Risley in connection with the Municipal Bill, the *Pratikal*, of the 16th September, writes as follows:—

The Municipal Bill.

(1) Two things should be considered in connection with the question whether it would be proper to spend Municipal money on the training of lady doctors for the mufassal. In the first place, are lady doctors so very necessary in the mufassal? And secondly, would it be right to have them trained at the rate-payers' cost? So far as the writer can see, lady doctors, trained as they are now, have little scope for the practice of their art in the mufassal. The ordinary duties of midwives, which alone they can successfully perform, are better performed by the old class of uneducated midwives. As for other medical duties, these lady doctors are quite unfit for them; all that they can do in this respect being to render some help in certain matters to the male physicians in charge of patients. And for this purpose the writer would advise the maintenance only of one lady doctor in a district. But considering how the municipalities are already burdened with duties of a multifarious nature, it would not be advisable to saddle them with any expenditure on this account. The limited means at the disposal of most municipalities in the matter of making sanitary improvements will have to be materially crippled, or new taxes will have to be imposed if they are required to perform the new duty. Besides, the rate-payers' money should not be thus wasted, seeing that it is the well-to-do people only who will derive any benefit from the maintenance of lady doctors in municipalities. Rani Annakali Devi, of Murshidabad, had a lady doctor appointed at her own expense, but very few people sought her advice. The writer is speaking only for the poor municipalities, the rich municipalities being in a position to train up and maintain any number of lady doctors they like.

(2). Mr. Risley's second question relates to the best method of assessment. The writer thinks that assessment according to the pecuniary condition of each rate-prayer would be best suited to the mufassal towns. In the mufassal, families are met with whose ancestors were richer and have left palatial buildings as bequests to their descendants, but their descendants are so reduced in circumstances as to be hardly able to earn a livelihood for themselves; while there are others who earn five or six hundred rupees per month, but who think it better to invest their savings in Government securities than in splendid buildings.

If Government really wishes to be advised by the public, it will certainly accept these suggestions.

SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

44. The *Sudhakar*, of the 16th September, says that it will be glad if, as rumour has it, a competent Muhammadan is appointed to the seat in the Bengal Council that will be vacated by Prince Furrokh Shah.

Prince Furrokh Shah's successor in the Bengal Council.

45. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide*, of the 16th September, says that the vacancy which will be caused in the Bengal Council by the retirement of Prince Furrokh Shah ought to be filled up by a Muhammadan, and that Maulvi Fazl Imam, Vice-Chairman of the Patna Municipality, would be the best man for the seat.

URDU GUIDE AND
DARUSSALTANAT,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

46. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has learnt, on the authority of a correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, that Babu Surendra Nath Banerji will be appointed to the Bengal Council before the Municipal Bill comes up for discussion, and says that it has heard that the Babu has long been making efforts to become a councillor of the Lieutenant-Governor. But though rumour is not to be implicitly relied on, it would be no wonder if the Babu should become a member of the Council, for no one would be surprised to see Surendra in a Council in which Mahendra has already got a seat. The writer sees no difference between this and that—between Mahendra and Surendra.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

47. The *Gramvasi*, of the 17th September, refers to the *Englishman* newspaper's article on the reconstitution of the Bengal Council, under the new Indian Councils Act, and observes as follows:—

GRAMVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

If the *Englishman's* statement regarding the reconstitution of the Council be correct, then it must be admitted that the reform of the Council will be a mere farce. In the first place, European members will form the majority in the new Council; and in the second, no proposal has yet been made to appoint any representative either of the Press or of any other class of people than the zamindars. To be truly representative in character, the Council should contain representatives of all classes.

The *Englishman* on the probable constitution of the Bengal Council under the new Indian Councils Act.

48. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th September, thus criticises the *Englishman's* article on the probable constitution of the Bengal Council under the new Indian Councils Act:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 18th, 1892.

- (1) It is probable that, in addition to the *Englishman's* eight official members, the Director of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police will get seats in the new Council, for both of them have had seats in the Council at one time or other. But as the Council will legislate for the whole province and not for the town of Calcutta alone, it would be better to take in the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, than the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.
- (2) The writer does not agree with the *Englishman* that both the Members of the Board of Revenue should be taken in. It will do to take one of them. And instead of the other, either the Inspector-General of Jails or the Sanitary Commissioner will probably be taken.
- (3) The new Council should also give a seat to the Postmaster-General, Bengal, and, if practicable, to the head of the Telegraph Department as well, for the Postal and Telegraph Departments are closely connected with the administration, and become extremely important during wars or other disturbances. The English Postmaster-General has a seat in the Cabinet. To make room for these two officers, two instead of four Secretaries should be taken.
- (4) Instead of the Legal Remembrancer, who is far from being one of the picked men in the Civil Service, Government should take the Senior Government Pleader in the High Court, who is greatly the Remembrancer's superior in legal learning and experience. It is not absolutely necessary that all the official members should be Europeans.
- (5) If the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association are privileged each to return a member, it would not be fair not to grant the same privilege to the National Chamber of Commerce. Sir Charles Elliott, it is hoped, will do justice in this respect.

(6) The writer does not know whether the *Englishman's* statement that the planters and zamindars instead of being asked to return members will probably have members chosen for them by Government is a gratuitous one, or is based upon information received from Government. But as one who does not like election, he will not be sorry to find Government following the course suggested by the *Englishman*. Great care, however, should be taken in choosing representatives for these two communities. It will be a great mistake, for instance, to select a Calcutta zamindar to represent the landed interest. And the interests of tea-planters and indigo-planters being far from identical, it will probably be necessary to have two men to represent the two classes.

(7) The Calcutta University, which will probably be allowed to return a member, should on no account return a Fellow who is a Government officer.

According to the *Englishman*, five native members are sure to have seats on the Council, that is, one for the Zamindars, one for the Mufassal Municipalities, one for the District Boards, one for the Calcutta Municipality, and one for the Calcutta University. And three non-official seats will be filled by representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association, and the planter communities respectively, and these three members are sure to be Europeans. Of the remaining two non-official seats, one ought to be given to a representative of the National Chamber of Commerce, and the other to a fit representative of the native community at large, who is not a mouthpiece of any of the classes already represented. The Muhammadans need not fear that the writer is advocating their exclusion. For all the classes and interests that will be allowed to send representatives may be represented as well by Hindus as by Muhammadans.

But a Council constituted as above is sure to have in it a predominance of the official element. Dividing the members according to race, 13 are likely to be Britishers, and seven natives. The number of native members will never be greater and might be less than seven.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1892.

49. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 13th September, reports the following news from the Basirhat sub-division:—

Crops in the Basirhat sub-division of the 24-Parganas district.

The transplanting of the autumnal paddy plants is over, but the rainfall is not as it should be. If there be not sufficient rainfall without delay, the prospects of the crop will become deplorable. Coarse rice is selling at nine *pucka* seers per rupee. The lower classes of people are suffering terribly from scarcity. Many of them are living on one meal a day, and the number of beggars has increased.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

50. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th September, has the following on the alleged prevalence of distress in the district of Bankura:—

Scarcity in the district of Bankura.

No step has yet been taken to remove the distress of the poor people in the district of Bankura. Not even the Magistrate can say that there is no distress in the district. He is not indifferent in the matter. He is making enquiries at different places. The other day he personally inspected the condition of the people of Sonamukhi. He was sorry to find that the District Board has only Rs. 3,800 to spare. So Government will be under the necessity of spending some money to keep the poor people of the district of Bankura alive. The month of Bhadra is over, and it is useless to expect rain or more cultivation. In parts of the district, where the fields have been cultivated, the paddy plants have been kept alive by occasional showers of rain, but they are not likely to yield a good harvest. If the police has reported differently, its report should not be accepted. The mahajans have stopped giving loans of paddy. The other day the Collector said at a meeting of the District Board that relief operations would be necessary in the month of October. He thinks that if rain yet falls

the mahajans may advance paddy and the distress of the people may be removed. There is, however, no ground for taking this view. Not to speak of day labourers, even the agriculturists have been living on loans of paddy since the months of Jyaistha and Ashar. They have managed to live up to this time by selling their household articles. Paddy is selling at 18 or 19 seers (of *pi* measure) per rupee, and is likely to become dearer still. The prospect of large profits has induced mahajans not to make advances of paddy or to sell it. Thus in some places rice cannot be had even for money. This being the case, it will not do to remain idle in the hope that matters will soon better themselves. Deaths from starvation are also occurring, and the Magistrate has probably received information of this. A poor woman attempted to pluck flowers from a Kadamba tree with the object of appeasing her hunger therewith; but she was so weak and emaciated that in the attempt to climb up the tree she lost her balance, fell to the ground and died. The other day a poor old woman who has a family of seven children to feed, earned only 6 pice by selling a basketful of *chhatu* and bought rice and divided between themselves the scanty meal. Cries of distress are coming from all parts of the district. Rich people ought to come forward to help their starving neighbours. If they had been charitably disposed, the people would not have asked aid of Government.

Reports of distress.

51. The *Banganivasi*, of the 16th September, has the following:—

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1892.

- (1). A correspondent says that scarcity of the nature of a precursor of famine has made its appearance in the villages Hara, Haripal, Brahmanpara, Gopinagar, Raghubati, Basudevpur, and several others in the Hooghly district. Rice is selling at eight or nine seers per rupee, and labourers are going about begging. Most of the fields remain unsown. Some of the villages paid rates for supply of water from the Kananadi, but unfortunately the authorities are not supplying water. It is hoped that Government will take timely measures to relieve the distress.
- (2). The pinch of scarcity is fast increasing in Ebrahimpur in the Manikganj sub-division of the Dacca district. Rice is selling at ten to eleven seers per rupee. People are crying for rice, and many are dying of starvation.

52. The *Sanjivani*, of the 17th September, says that severe scarcity is

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the 24-Parganas district.

being felt in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the 24-Parganas district. It is not difficult for Government to learn the real condition of the people of this sub-division, as the place is situated within almost a stone's throw of the palace of the Lieutenant-Governor. Will the Collector of the 24-Parganas take the trouble of directing his attention to this matter? The respectable inhabitants of the place ought to set on foot an agitation with the view of raising Government from its lethargy.

Reports of crops and distress.

53. The *Bangavasi*, of the 17th September, has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

- (1) Indications of famine are visible in the villages Abdullapur, Bahadurpur, Kandarpapur, Rukundi, Kharki, Sadakpur and several others within the jurisdiction of the Mehdiganj thana in the Barisal district. Rice is selling at Rs. 4-6 per maund, and the people are already reduced to great straits, many of them hardly getting two meals a day. The price of rice is rapidly rising.
- (2) There has been a poor yield of crops in Nurnagar within the jurisdiction of the Kalganj thana in the Khulna district. Paddy is selling at twenty to twenty-two seers per rupee, and rice at Rs. 5 per maund. Most people are subsisting on seeds of the Nail flower and boiled *kura* (the dust of husked rice); cattle-plague too has appeared in the village.

54. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 18th September, writes as follows:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 18th, 1892.

Scarcity in the district of Mymensingh.

Scarcity to the fullest extent prevails all over the district of Mymensingh. But neither the Magistrate nor the people seem to note it. It is true that in many parts of

the district cause for anxiety will in some measure vanish when the winter crops become ready for the sickle, but how are the people to pass the two intervening months? Many of them have already begun to sell the ornaments of their wives and children, and their household utensils. The *sali*, the *boro* and the *aus* crops in the district have been destroyed by sudden floods and excessive rainfall. The price of paddy began to rise in the latter part of the month of Jyaishta, and paddy is now selling at Rs. 4-8, Rs. 5, Rs. 6, Rs. 7, and Rs. 8 per maund. Those who grow jute may somehow manage to live, but those who do not grow that crop are in very great difficulty. Thefts from sheer want have been committed at Gafargaon and at Netrokona, where some people looted a mahajan's granary.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 14th, 1892.

Nawab Mehdi Hossein's letter
on the Congress.

55. The *Sahachar*, of the 14th September, has the following in regard to Nawab Mehdi Hossein's letter on the Congress:—

The Government of India is not satisfied with the Nawab. Hyderabad has become a nest of intrigues. Everything there is out of order, and there is no knowing who is at the head of affairs. The majority of the Hyderabad population are Hindus, and yet there is not a single Hindu among the ministers. The Governor-General will shortly visit Hyderabad, when its affairs will be overhauled, and the men who are now about the person of the Nizam like so many leeches, will have to take leave of the State. Mehdi Hossein is an outsider, and news of the proposed visit of the Viceroy has made him uneasy. He is therefore trying to humour the authorities by attacking the Congress movement in the columns of the *Times* newspaper.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1892.

Subscriptions for the Lady
Dufferin Fund.

56. The *Hitavadi*, of the 15th September, says that the way in which subscriptions for the Lady Dufferin Fund are being collected is very reprehensible. The *National Guardian* newspaper has published a copy of a letter demanding subscription for the Fund. It was printed at the Government Press, and published from Belvedere. It is impossible for simple-minded people to make out whether this letter should be taken in the light of an order of Government, or as a bare request for subscription. Those who will receive such letters will undoubtedly take them to be orders of Government, and will, therefore, pay subscriptions from a fear of the authorities. Under these circumstances, the officials should have absolutely nothing to do with the collection of subscriptions for the Fund.

HITAVADI.

57. A correspondent of the same paper says that the extensive scale on which jute cultivation is carried on in East Bengal is doing a good deal of injury to the country. It is true that the cultivators in that part of the country have now more money in their hands than they ever possessed before, but, properly considered, their condition has at present become worse than when they devoted themselves to the cultivation of paddy. Jute cultivation is injurious for the following reasons:—

- (1) Owing to jute cultivation, the soil is gradually losing its fertility, because the cultivators do not consider it necessary to manure the land on which jute is grown.
- (2) The extensive cultivation of jute is contributing to the occurrence of famine, by taking up large tracts of land which might be used for raising a paddy crop.
- (3) Jute cultivation is responsible for the fact that the cultivators instead of growing paddy even for home consumption, grow jute and purchase paddy; and this leads to the scarcity of rice in the country.
- (4) Jute brings all at once large sums of money into the pockets of the cultivators, who, in consequence, become luxurious and soon impoverished.
- (5) Jute is enriching foreigners at the expense of the Indians.

58. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 17th September, says that the water of the *baor* at Sindrani, a village within the Banagram sub-division of the Jessore district has become unfit for drinking in consequence of the steeping of jute in it. The stench issuing from the *baor* is unbearable. The *baor* is half a mile long and jute grown on 2,000 bighas of land are steeped in it. The practice is so injurious that last year nearly 150 people of Sindrani died by using the water of the *baor*. This year the police has prohibited jute steeping within 100 cubits of the bathing ghát at the *baor*; but this prohibition will not in the least minimise the mischief done by this practice. The Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to provide good drinking water where there is none, but let His Honour first protect good water where it already exists.

PRAKRITI,
Sept. 17th, 1892.

59. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 22nd September, has the following:—
The *Pioneer* on the sea-voyage question.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 22nd, 1892.

The *Pioneer* newspaper of Allahabad evidently does not know what the *Hindoo Patriot* ought to know, namely, that according to the Hindu Shastras, the duties of kings are in many matters different from those of their subjects. There are things which kings can do, but their subjects cannot without incurring sin. Some of the native princes of India have visited England, but have suffered no social degradation on that account; and the *Pioneer* therefore thinks that a Hindu incurs no blame by visiting England. But, as has been already stated, a subject may incur odium for doing what a king can do with impunity. Again, does the *Pioneer* know that the Gae kwar of Baroda belongs to such a low caste that injunctions of the Shastras that apply to the twice-born do not at all apply to him. Low caste people are not, as a matter of fact, prohibited from going out to sea. The *Hindoo Patriot*, however, ought to know this. Babu Rasik Ray, of the *Indian Mirror* newspaper, may be jubilant over the fact that men of the *Suvarna Vanik* caste do not suffer any social degradation by making sea-voyages, but the *Hindoo Patriot* ought not to be jubilant over it.

URIYA PAPERS.

60. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 17th August, complains of the increase of the number of petty thefts in the Balasore town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 17th, 1892.

61. The same paper reports that the rains in the Balasore district have been very insufficient, and that the standing paddy crop cannot grow without more water.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,

62. The *Samvad Vahika*, of the 18th August, and the *Utkal Dipika*, of the 20th August, give a vivid description of the distress that, according to them, now prevails in Orissa, being partly due to the high price of rice and partly to the destruction of property in the late flood in the Mahanuddy and other rivers.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 18th, 1892.
UTKAL DIPIKA,
Aug. 20th, 1892.

63. All the native papers of Orissa take a favourable notice of the services of Sir John Edgar, and regret the loss to the province caused by his retirement from the Indian Civil Service.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 24th September 1892.

